

Annual Report for year 1906.

Urban Sanitary Authority Sandwich.

12/2/07.

The White Friars

Sandwich.

Gent^l.

I now present the Annual Report (for the year ending 31st Dec: 1906) of the Urban Sanitary District of Sandwich occupying an area of 756 acres and containing a population of 3170 (according to the last census) these figures for statistical purposes and taken as a correct estimate in working out percentages required by the Local Government Board in this Report.

The population is distributed amongst the four Parishes as follows
St Peters 1088 St Marys 1092 St Clement 956
St Bartholomews 84.

During the twelve months 34 deaths have been registered - two of these were accidental and one a case of suicide eliminating these, a total of 31 is left representing number caused by disease or senility - This number is probably a record and yields the extremely low death rate of 9.7 per thousand a still further improvement upon last year when it was 10.7 and ~~already~~ ^{certainly} demonstrates the fact that on a very ancient site, always occupied with somewhat crowded dwellings, it is still possible after centuries have passed for such

a Town to compare with so much advantage with others less ancient as well as with even the most modern and be a place notable for longevity and general healthfulness

The deaths were distributed in the various Parishes as follows St. Clement 11 St. Peters 10 St. Mary 10 St. Bartholemews 3 — in order of time 10. occurred during the first quarter of the year 4. in the second 6. in the third and 14. in the last, the highest mortality being in the last quarter of 1906 as compared with 1905, when the highest death rate was in the third quarter

The following table gives the number of deaths during the past 5 years

1902	46
1903	39
1904	40
1905	35
1906.	34

The numbers of births registered in the year was 60 (28 male 32 female) which yields a birth rate of 18.9 per thousand as compared with 18.2 for the previous year.

Table of births registered during past 5 years

1902.	76
1903.	67
1904.	70
1905.	58
1906.	60

The following were given as causes of death

Senility	8
Prematurity &c	3
Suicide	1
(Drowning) accident	1
Cancer	1
Shock after immersion	1
Convulsion	2
Tubercular Disease	4
Heart	3
Cerebral Softening	1
Influenza	1
Acute Bronchitis	1
Bright's disease	1
Non-infective Enteritis	2
Cirrhosis	1
Laryngitis	1
Pleurisy	1
Diabetes	1
	<u>34</u>

Rather less than one third of the deaths were therefore due to old age or prematurity of birth - the other causes were more general than last year. Those due to Tubercular Disease were 4, the same in number as last year, one was due to cancer as compared with 4 in 1905. three caused by heart disease instead of six in last year. while one death was attributed to Influenza none were due to any Zymotic disease - of the total deaths 8 were attributed to old age and three to premature birth - the age of the oldest person was 89 (a female)

The number of children dying under twelve months of age was seven. 3. from premature birth & inanition. 2. from Enteritis (now infective) 1. Rickets, 1. Convulsion, and these are causes which need no special remark, but I should perhaps note the fact that nearly half the deaths occurred within the first twelve months of life or in old age.

The number of cases reported under the notification of Infectious Disease, Act was 8 - five of these were Erysipelas, two Diphtheria, one enteric - the cases of Erysipelas all occurred during the Summer months. The first case of Diphtheria was notified in July, in a child living in a Cottage on The Butts whose parents believed it to have been caught at a Circus chiefly because the child became ill shortly afterwards - On inspection the flooring of a portion of the Cottage was found to be in an extremely rotten and damp condition so much so that it was found necessary to lay a new floor - in addition to this the Garden of the Cottage abutted an open stream used to convey sewage and no doubt at times decomposing matter was deposited upon the banks in spite of periodical flushing. The second case of Diphtheria occurred in October in a child living in Paradise Row but on enquiry it was found that it had on the previous day returned from New Brompton where it been on a visit & was not

feeling well. The Med. Officer of Health at New Brompton was immediately communicated with, who replied, stating that the household where the child stayed was well and that no cases had been reported in that neighbourhood. The household was kept under observation the prescribed time & no extension of the disease ^{occurred} ~~occurred~~ either in New Brompton or Sandwich.

In November a young girl was found to be suffering from Enteric Fever in Church St St-Mary, altho it occurred in an old house close inspection failed to find any insanitary condition likely to account for it. The girl had not been away from the Town and had partaken of no doubtful food apparently - there was no extension of the disease & no other cases reported during the year. On recovery, all dwellings in which Infectious disease occurred were fumigated and disinfected. As before mentioned no deaths took place from any Infectious Disease and at the present time no cases exist in the Town.

During 1906 the Town has been very free from Epidemic disease. Mumps showed a tendency to become so in the early part of the year and there were also an unusual number suffering from Tonsillitis in the Spring, Influenza altho frequently present (in Gastric & Catarrhal forms) did not assume Epidemic proportions in 1906.

Weekly Returns have been regularly received from and sent to the Local Government Board throughout the year.

Twelve complaints were received and visits made by the Sanitary Inspector. The causes were found to consist of defective or badly laid drains (in one case untrapped) two cottages found to be in a filthy condition from unwashed linen & the accumulation of dirt of all kinds - one yard in which the trimmings of skin & flesh had been laid by for manure and complaints from smoke nuisance - all these conditions were remedied or modified so far as practicable. One case occurred of overcrowding in one family which has been attended to by the eldest son and daughter (aged respectively 17 & 15) leaving.

The Surface drains are reported to have worked well, only two been temporarily stopped during the excessive rain in autumn - one defective portion in New Street has now been relaid. The Town ditches have been systematically cleared and no complaints have been received - The gullies have also been cleansed and flushed weekly.

The various bakehouses (8 in number) have been inspected & reports entered on the prescribed forms but with the exception of more frequent lime washing & fresh paint all appeared to be in good or fair condition.

The three workrooms under observation were all found to be in a satisfactory condition as were also the Slaughter Houses Cornsheds and Dairys - altho from the point of view of a Medical Officer of Health all such buildings should be outside the limits or well away from human habitation which is not the case in this Town and the notification of disease in the Cows - more especially Tuberculosis should be compulsory.

The water supply and its quality has throughout the year been very satisfactory is of general use and now thoroughly appreciated by all classes.

I remain
Yours obedient Servant
Wm W. Harrison
M.O.H.

